

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 13 with the following:

Switching fabric 70 moves each data packet from that packet's ingress port/line card to that packet's egress port/line card. Switching fabric 70 connects to each line card through two switching fabric port connections (see, e.g., port connections 44, 46 to line card 40, port connections 54, 56 to line card 50, and port connections 64, 66 to line card 60). Switching fabric 70 can be rapidly reconfigured from epoch to epoch, e.g., at one epoch, it may be switching packets from ingress port 44 to egress port 54 and from ingress port 46 to egress port 66, and at the next instant, it could be switching packets from ingress port 44 to egress port 64. At the same time, packets from ingress port 54 could be routed to egress port 46, and packets from ingress port 64 could be routed to egress port 44, for example. Route processing module (RPM) 80 has several duties. RPM 80 is responsible for overall system operation, i.e., recognizing and booting new line cards, identifying faulty line cards, packet route discovery, and sharing routing table information with the line cards. RPM 80 also provides a user interface to allow a system operator to configure the system and view system parameters. For each of these functions, RPM 80 generally communicates with the line cards over control bus 90.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 15, line 1 with the following:

Figure 8 shows a high-level block diagram for an egress interface 140. Egress interface 140 operates much like ingress interface 120. Packet pipeline 142 receives packets from the switching fabric, where the packets undergo traffic monitoring and traffic conditioning using traffic monitor 144 and traffic conditioner 146 via similar operations to those that are performed by traffic monitor 124 and traffic conditioner 126 while packets wait

in packet pipeline 122. A packet that is not discarded from pipeline 142 is queued by MMU 150 in a queue corresponding to that packet's class and physical egress port (although egress interface 140 shows a single egress port, the egress interface may serve multiple physical ports).